

Sociological Theory–SYA 4010.02
Fall 2008
MW 11:00 – 12:15 Room: HCB 214

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(please write 4010.02 in the subject line when contacting me via email)

Office Hours: Monday, 12:30 – 1:30, or by appointment. My office is 516 Bellamy (on the 5th floor).

REQUIRED TEXT: Social Theory: The Multicultural and Classic Readings, Third Edition 2004 by Charles Lemert

SUMMARY AND OBJECTIVES

This course is designed to give the student an overview of the study of sociological theory. It will present views from classical perspectives within sociology as well as some of the current perspectives within the discipline. The purpose of this course is to introduce the student to a variety of theoretical orientations, past and present, with an emphasis on the strengths and weaknesses of each approach. By analyzing a variety of theories, it is also hoped that the student will develop a theoretical view of his/her own and a critical (i.e., analytical) orientation toward theory in particular and social interaction in general. By the end of the course you should be able to:

- 1) Describe the major paradigms, theories, and concepts in social theory
- 2) Describe the relations among these
- 3) Express your personal paradigmatic preference and defend it coherently
- 4) Construct an argument combining theory and evidence

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

Course grades will be based on the following weighting of course requirements

<u>Assignment</u>	<u>% of Grade</u>	<u>Tentative Due Date</u>
1) Quizzes	15%	TBA
2) Exam 1	30%	Mon, Oct. 6
3) Current Events Paper	25%	Mon, Nov. 17
4) Exam 2	30%	TBA

**Due dates are subject to change

GRADING SCALE

A =93-100 A- =90-92 B+ =87-89 B=83-86 B- =80-82 C+ = 77-79
C=73-76 C- =70-72 D+=67-69 D=63-66 D- =60-62 F=<59

1. In-Class Quizzes - Unannounced quizzes will be given throughout the semester. Quizzes will cover assigned readings and any class material. At the end of the semester, quiz grades will be averaged together to create one score accounting for 25% of the final course grade. The lowest quiz grade will be dropped. There will be no make-ups for missed in-class exercises or quizzes. If you have a university excused absence (see absences in syllabus) you will be given an “NA” for that quiz, which means that quiz will not be factored into your grade, thus not helping or hurting you. If you come to class after the quiz has been given out, you will not be allowed to take the quiz for that day.

2. Exams: Exams will consist of multiple choice, T/F and short answer questions. Exams will cover all course materials including videos, web materials, assigned readings, and lecture materials.

3. Current Events Application Paper: Students will be responsible for finding a current events news clipping that relates to one of the theorists studied in class and explain how the concepts of chosen theorist can be applied to the article. More details of this assignment will be made available later.

COURSE POLICIES

1. Attendance is required in order to succeed in this course. Changes in assignments, tests dates, etc. will be announced in class. Additionally, material is presented in lecture which is not found in the text; students are responsible for all course material whether present or absent. If you miss class, be sure to get notes from a classmate. Quizzes are given in class and there are NO make up quizzes allowed. If you miss a quiz you will receive a “zero” for that quiz.

2. Excused absences are as follows: Religious holidays; absences due to representing TCC at official functions, including intercollegiate debating or sports events; military duty; jury duty; and verified (must provide documentation) emergencies and/or medical illness. Medical illnesses are serious in nature and require continued treatment by medical professionals and/or surgical or other treatments. Additionally, if there is a death in the family, up to three missed classes will be excused.

Colds, the flu, fatigue, and stress do not qualify as medical illnesses. If you have a chronic illness that could affect your attendance, it is imperative that you alert me to this at the beginning of class. Documentation for an absence to be excused is required. Documentation must be provided upon your return to class. If documentation is not provided on the first day back from the absence, the absence will NOT be excused. Please provide a copy of the documentation to me and keep a copy for your own records. While one is not penalized for an excused absence, he or she remains responsible for all content missed, including assignments, knowledge, or skills that were covered in the missed class(es).

3. Tardiness is disruptive to other students and the instructor. If a student arrives after a quiz has been given out, that student will not be allowed to take the quiz or and will receive a grade of “zero” for that quiz.

4. Late work will receive a 5 points/24 hour period penalty. This includes weekends.

5. Make up exams: No make-up exams will be given. If students miss the exam they will receive a grade of zero. This penalty may be waived in the event of serious medical illness or verified emergencies, but I reserve the right to require documentation.

6. Electronic Devices are not permitted in the classroom. Please turn off all cell phones, pagers, and ipods. Laptops are not permitted in the classroom. Failure to abide by this policy will result in dismissal from class.

7. Classroom Conduct:

Courtesy in the Classroom. Classroom courtesy is necessary to ensure that all students have the opportunity to learn without distractions. This means no cell phones or texting, talking during lectures (unless recognized by the professor or discussion leader), reading newspapers, etc. during class. If you must have a cell phone to receive emergency calls about kids or other family members, keep it on vibrate. Entering and leaving is distracting to your instructor and other students. Therefore, you need to be on time for class and stay until the end. If you must enter late or leave early, please inform me before class begins and take the seat nearest an exit and enter or leave as quietly as possible. Please make sure the door does not 'bang' as you enter or leave. Repeated disruption of class may lead to penalties that reduce your final grade (see below). Class discussions of the issues we study can stimulate strong feelings and heated debate. Because this is a college classroom, all discussions must be scholarly.

(1) Scholarly comments are:

Respectful of diverse opinions and open to follow up questions and/or disagreement; related to the class and course material; advance the discussion about issues related to the course and/or course material rather than personal beliefs; are delivered in normal tones and a non-aggressive manner.

(2) Unacceptable behaviors in the classroom are:

(a) Personal attacks. This includes attacks on a person’s appearance, demeanor, or political beliefs. (b) Interrupting your instructor or other students. Raise your hand and wait to be called on by the discussion leader or myself to prevent this problem. (c) Using the discussion to argue for political positions and/or beliefs. If political discussions arise, they must be discussed as scholarly endeavors (see above). (d) Using raised tones, yelling, engaging in arguments with other students, and being physically aggressive. (e) Ignoring your instructor’s authority to protect the integrity of the classroom. Anyone who violates these guidelines will be asked to cease and desist and may be asked to leave the classroom and/or drop the course.

Failure to abide by these principles can result in academic penalties ranging from a lowered grade, to dismissal, to failing the course.

8. **Incomplete grades:** Missing work is insufficient reason for a grade of Incomplete (I). An incomplete will only be given under extenuating circumstances at my discretion. Note that College of Social Science guidelines require that students seeking an "I" must be passing the course.

9. **Academic Honor Code:** Students are expected to uphold the Academic Honor Code published in The Florida State University Bulletin and the Student Handbook. The Academic Honor System of The Florida State University is based on the premise that each student has the responsibility (1) to uphold the highest standards of academic integrity in the student's own work, (2) to refuse to tolerate violations of academic integrity in the university community, and (3) to foster a high sense of integrity and social responsibility on the part of the university community. Please see the following web site for a complete explanation:

<http://www.fsu.edu/Books/Student-Handbook/codes/honor.html>.

Students must abide by the highest standards of academic integrity. Any form of academic dishonesty will result in a grade of "zero" for that particular assignment. We reserve the right to use all means at our disposal to screen for plagiarism, including electronic citation checkers (e.g., Turnitin.com). For more information on plagiarism, see <http://online.fsu.edu/learningresources/plagiarism>.

Procedures for dealing with alleged academic dishonesty are described at:

http://registrar.fsu.edu/bulletin/undergrad/info/acad_regs.htm#AcademicHonor

10. **Student Conduct Code:** Everyone in this class is expected to adhere to principles embodied in the FSU Student Contact Code, available at: <http://www.fsu.edu/Books/Student-Handbook/2003codes/conduct.html>. This code essentially requires everyone to maintain the highest professional standards of conduct in this class, whether in face-to-face meetings or online. Violation of the conduct code carries a range of penalties that can range from a reduced grade to expulsion.

11. **Americans with Disabilities Act:** Students with disabilities needing academic accommodation should: (1) register with and provide documentation to the Student Disability Resource Center; (2) bring us a letter indicating the need for accommodation and what type. This should be done during the first week of class. For more information about services available to FSU students with disabilities:

<http://www.fsu.edu/~staffair/dean/StudentDisability/>

12. **Syllabus change policy:** This syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with advanced notice. It and other class materials are available in alternative format upon request.

COURSE SHCHEDULE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

	WEEK 1 - Marx
Aug 26	Syllabus and Introduction
Aug 28	Introduction to Marx <i>Read (before class on 8/28) Human Nature, Capitalism, and Exploitation (on blackboard/course library)</i>
	WEEK 2 - Marx
Sept 1	No class – Labor Day
Sept 3	Estranged Labor <i>Read: Lemert pgs. 30-36</i>
	WEEK 3 - Marx
Sept 8	Video: A Living Wage <i>Read: The Values and Fetishism of Commodities: Lemert pgs. 51-61</i>
Sept 10	<i>Read Lemert: Imperialism in India pgs. 50-51 & Marx and Globalization (on blackboard)</i>
	WEEK 4 - Marx
Sept 15	Globalization <i>Read: (on blackboard) Marx and Globalization</i>
Sept 17	<i>Read (on blackboard) Jobs on the Line</i>
	WEEK 5 - Marx
Sept 22	<i>Read Lemert pgs. 635-641 Post Work Manifesto</i>
Sept 24	<i>Read Lemert pgs.391-397 World Systems Theory</i>
	WEEK 6 - Weber
Sept 29	<i>Read Lemert pgs. 100-104 Spirit of Capitalism</i>
Oct 1	<i>Read Lemert pgs. 104-110 The Bureaucratic Machine</i>
	WEEK 7
Oct. 6	EXAM 1
Oct. 8	Video
	WEEK 8 - Weber
Oct 13	<i>Read Lemert pgs.112-115 Types of Legitimate Domination</i>
Oct 15	Video

	WEEK 9 - Durkheim
Oct 20	<i>Read Lemert pgs. 71-74 Sociology and Social Facts</i>
Oct 22	<i>Read Lemert pgs.70-71 Anomie and The Division of Labor</i>
	WEEK 10
Oct 27	<i>Read (on blackboard) Elementary Forms of Religious Life</i>
Oct 29	<i>Read Lemert pg 74-82 Suicide and Modernity</i>
	WEEK 11
Nov 3	Video
Nov 5	Video
	WEEK 12 – Contemporary Theories of Gender
Nov 10	<i>Read (on blackboard) Doing Gender</i>
Nov 12	Video
	<i>Read (on blackboard) Dress and its Victims</i>
	WEEK 13 – Contemporary Theories of Gender
Nov 17	<i>Read Lemert pgs 356-359 The Problem that has no name</i>
	Current Events Paper Due
Nov19	Families
	<i>Read Lemert pgs 654-658 Working Women & the Time Bind</i>
	WEEK 14
Nov 24	Catch up <i>Readings TBA</i>
Nov 26	Catch up – Happy Thanksgiving!! <i>Readings TBA</i>
	WEEK 15
Dec 1	Video
Dec 3	Review
FINAL EXAM	TBA

All dates and information is subject to change at instructor's discretion.

Week 14 – 4/7 – 4/11: Gender

Week 15 – 4/14 - 4/18: Gender

Finals week – EXAM 2: By Wed., Apr. 23 @ 11:59 pm